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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH JODY POWELL

AT 2:30 P.M. EDT

JUNE 21, 1979

THURSDAY

MR. POWELL: I have one announcement to make and then I will be glad to take your questions.

At the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China, Vice President Walter F. Mondale will make an official visit to the People's Republic of China in August of 1979.

The Vice President will be visiting the PRC as the President's personal representative to continue the important process of high level consultations on both bilateral and multilateral issues of major importance to the United States and to the People's Republic of China.

That visit will also permit a review of the broad range of significant developments in United States-People's Republic of China relations that have taken place since normalization of relations on January 1, 1979.

The details of that visit and schedule are still being worked out. If you want to pursue it further, I suggest you contact Al Eisele in the Vice President's Office.

Q Is a trip by the President contemplated at some time?

MR. POWELL: I am sure sometime, someplace. There are no plans under way that I am aware of.

Q Was the original invitation to the President and is Mondale substituting for the President?

MR. POWELL: The only thing, as I believe you know, at the visit here, there was a general in-principle, and so forth; so far